

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 SCI-06 HEW-08

AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03

PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-10

IO-12 TRSE-00 L-03 DOTE-00 RSR-01 /141 W

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O 162005 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7043

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 3039

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR CO

SUBJECT: FMD CONTROL IN COLOMBIA

REF: (A) STATE 063425 (B) STATE 063424 (C) BOGOTA 8374

PASS USDA FOR ASST SECY YEUTTER

DISCUSSIONS WITH MINAG WE BELIEVE ADVANCED UNDERSTANDING
ON BOTH SIDES OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN DARIEN GAP FMD CONTROL
PROBLEM. RECOMMEND THAT SUBSTANCE THESE DISCUSSIONS BE INCLUDED
IN REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE NSC UNDER SECRETARIES
COMMITTEE TO PRESIDENT.

1. AMB, ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER, DR. FRANCIS MULHERN,
AND EMB OFFS MET APRIL 13 WITH MINAG VALLEJO AND HIS TECHNICAL
TEAM FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON FMD CONTROL IN COLOMBIA IN RELATION
TO DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY PROJECT. DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON POINTS
RAISED
IN AMB' S
LETTER TO VALEJO (REFTEL B).

2. VALLEJO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS
IN DISCUSSIONS TO DATE. HE REITERATED STRONG GOC INTEREST IN
FINDING SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH GOVTS AND SUGGESTED THAT
RATHER THAN CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF LETTERS STATING EACH SIDE' S
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POSITIONS THAT TECHNICIANS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES OPERATING AS A JOINT COMMISSION GO TO AREA TO EXAMINE PROBLEMS ON THE SPOT AND TO FORMULATE JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESOLVE THEM.

3. REGARDING U. S. CONCERN THAT " AREA FREE OF CATTLE" NORTH OF HIGHWAY ROUTE WOULD PERMIT A NUMBER OF EXISTING CATTLE OPERATIONS TO REMAIN, VALLEJO INDICATED THAT THE JOINT TECHNICAL COMMISSION SHOULD VISIT AREA TO DETERMINE WHAT IS TECHNICALLY NECESSARY AND FEASIBLE. HE POINTED OUT WITH RESPECT TO AREA NORTH OF PROPOSED PALO DE LETRAS PARK TO THE RIO TOLO THAT 300 METER CONTOUR LINE CONSTITUTES AN EFFECTIVE NATURAL BARRIER BECAUSE AREA BETWEEN THE CONTOUR AND BORDER CONSISTS OF STEEP MOUNTAIN RIDGES THROUGH WHICH MOVEMENT OF CATTLE WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS MORE REALISTIC TO SELECT NATURAL BOUNDARY LINE SUCH AS THE 300 METER CONTOUR THAN TO ARBITRARILY ESTABLISH WIDTH OF 8 KM. WHICH WOULD RESULT IN A LINE THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO POLICE. HE ALSO STATED THAT GOC PROPOSED TO PROVIDE STRICT VIGILANCE IN THIS ZONE AND WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSTRUCT FENCES IN VALLEYS IF THIS WAS TECHNICALLY DESIRABLE. ALL CATTLE AND FARMS WITHIN THIS ZONE WILL BE REMOVED.

4. ACCORDING TO VALLEJO, THE ALTO LIMON AREA WOULD REQUIRE SPECIAL ADDITIONAL MEASURES SINCE THIS WAS A TRADITIONAL ROUTE FOR MOVEMENT INTO PANAMA. HE SAID THIS ALSO SHOULD BE STUDIED BY THE JOINT COMMISSION. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY COMMISSION COULD RECOMMEND WIDER BARRIER ZONE IN THIS AREA BUT STRONG SECURITY MEASURES WOULD BE NEEDED WHEREVER LINE LOCATED.)

5. VALLEJO RECOGNIZED THAT THE RIO ASTI VALLEY CONSTITUTES A PROBLEM. HOWEVER HE PUT MUCH EMPHASIS ON FACT THAT THIS AREA WAS 90 KMS. AWAY FROM PROPOSED HIGHWAY ROUTE AND REALLY HAD NO RELATION TO WHETHER OR NOT HIGHWAY WAS BUILT.

AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE ROAD WOULD BRING LARGE INFLUX OF PEOPLE TO AREA GREATLY INCREASING THE RISK OF FMD MOVEMENT INTO PANAMA AND THAT EVEN WITHOUT ROAD WE WOULD WANT A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM.

6. VALLEJO INDICATED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT POLITICALLY TO MOVE PEOPLE OUT OF ASTI VALLEY AND GOC HAD PROPOSED A PROGRAM TO MAKE

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THIS AREA FMD FREE ZONE WITH STRICT CONTROL AND VILILANCE MEASURES.

NO NEW ANIMALS HAD BEEN ALLOWED INTO AREA IN THE LAST YEAR AND
GOC WAS CONSIDERING STOPPING VACCINATION BECAUSE THIS AREA
AS WELL AS THE REST OF THUMB AREA HAD NOT RECORDED A FMD
OUTBREAK IN 5 YEARS. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT GOC COULD
NOT STOP VACCINATING WITHOUT ASSURANCES THAT RESOURCES WOUL
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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 SCI-06 HEW-08

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O 162005 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7044

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 3039

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR CO
SUBJECT: FMD CONTROL IN COLOMBIA

REF: (A) STATE 063425 (B) STATE 063424 (C) BOGOTA 8374

PASS USDA FOR ASST SECY YEUTTER

ON MEASURES NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THIS PART OF CHOCO (NORTH
OF ATRATO RIVER) AS FMD FREE ZONE. HE ADDED THAT GOC HAD ACCEPTED
PROPOSAL FOR VIA AND PROBANK TESTING UNDER PAHO SUPERVISION
AND IN ADDITION THE GOC INTENDED TO FOCUS EFFORTS UNDER FMD
PROGRAM WHICH IS BEING FINANCED IN PART BY IBD ON NORTHWEST PART OF
COUNTRY WITH OBJECTIVE OF PUSHING FMD LINE SOUTH
THEREBY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR NORTHWEST CHOCO AREA.

10. ASSISTANT SECRETARY YEUTTER AND AMB BELIEVE THAT INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH VALLEJO WERE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN CLARIFYING
POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES. VALLEJO' S SUGGESTION THAT WE REALLY
MAY NOT BE TOO FAR FROM REACHING A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH
SIDES AND THAT A JOINT COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED ASAP TO RESOLVE

REMAINING TECHNICAL DIFFERENCES IN THE FIELD HAS CONSIDERABLE MERIT. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO PROCEED IN THIS DIRECTION, AN NUMBER OF DECISIONS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED.

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11. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE UNDER SECRETARIES' THE PRESIDENT BE REVISED TO REFLECT THE CURRENT SITUATION OUTLINED ABOVE. SPECIFICALLY, THIS MEMORANDUM SHOULD INDICATE OUR STRONG RELIEF THAT GOC WILL NOT AGREE TO USG PROPOSALS FOR REDUCING THE CATTLE POPULATION IN THE CHOCO AREA ADJACENT TO BARRIER ZONE. ANY IMPLICATION THAT GOC MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE CAN BE OBTAINED BY USE OF SUBSTANTIAL U. S. FUNDS WE BELIEVE IS A MISREADING OF SITUATION. THERE APPEARS TO EXIST SOME GOC FLEXIBILITY ON THE BARRIER ZONE. HOWEVER, AS VALLEJO STATED QUITE EXPLICITLY, THE ONLY WAY GOC WOULD BE WILLING TO MODIFY ITS PRESENT POSITION WOULD BE ON BASIS OF FIELD STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY A JOINT U. S. - COLOMBIAN COMMISSION.

12. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS APPROACH PROVIDES A GOOD CHANCE FOR WORKING OUT A PRAGMATIC SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES AND PROPOSE THAT THE UNDER SECRETARIES' MEMORANDUM RECOMMEND AS A FIRST STEP THAT A JOINT COMMISSION BE ESTABLISHED ASAP TO:

(A) STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING THE BARRIER ZONE WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF THE RIO ASTI VALLEY.

(B) STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ESTABLISHING A FMD FREE ZONE IN THE CHOCO AREA ADJACENT TO THE BARRIER ZONE.

(C) DETERMINE COSTS INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM SO THAT THE NECESSARY BUDGET DECISIONS CAN BE MADE AND FUNDS ALLOCATED.

(COMMENT: DURING THE FIRST PHASE COSTS WOULD BE RELATIVELY MINOR. COMPLETION OF THE COMMISSION'S INITIAL STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD LIKELY RUN WELL INTO THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. AFTER INITIAL EFFORT JOINT COMMISSION COULD FORM BASE FOR MAINTAINING CONTINUING U. S. PRESENCE AND SUPERVISION IN AREA ALONG LINES OF U. S.- MEXICAN AND U. S.- CENTRAL AMERICAN FMD COMMISSIONS.)

13. VALLEJO EXPLICITLY STATED GOC WOULD NOT WANT PANAMA TO BE REPRESENTED IN JOINT COMMISSION. THOUGHT IT FAR BETTER THAT U. S. AND COLOMBIA WORK TOGETHER BEING OPTIMISTIC THAT RESOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND.

14. IN SUMMARY, WE BELIEVE UNDER SECRETARIES MEMORANDUM SHOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR DECISION BY PRESIDENT WHETHER WE ARE (A)

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GOING TO CONTINUE TO INSIST ON FULL GOC IMPLEMENTATION OF
ALL OUR FMD CONTROL REQUIREMENTS
AND IF THEY ARE NOT MET SUSPEND ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN DARIEN
AREA OR (B) WORK WITH THE GOC ON PRAGMATIC BASIS THROUGH JOINT
COMMISSION RECOMMENDED ABOVE TO FIND BEST SOLUTION TO PROBLEM
ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH GOVTS.
LATTER WOULD HAVE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF ENLISTING GOC COOPERATION
IN CONTROL PROGRAM WHICH IS NEEDED REGARDLESS OF HIGHWAY
CONSTRUCTION.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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